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SUPERMAN IN ACTION COMICS

1996 1

THE TRIAL OF SUPERMAN!

MICHELINIE, DWYER & RODIER

DIRECT SALES

YOU SURE THAT'S HIM? OR, RATHER...
...WHAT'S LEFT OF HIM?
MOPE SURE. NRN'FROK HIRED MOPE TO TRANSPORT STOLEN PLAGUE CURE, COULD HAVE CLEARED MOPE'S NAME. BUT...
...NO MORE.
THAT WIZARD WHO TELEPORTED US HERE* OBVIOUSLY KNEW THIS WOULD HAPPEN.
PROBABLY HOPED IT WOULD HAPPEN TO US, TOO!
*SEE MAN OF TOMORROW #3.
THEN--
--WHO?
WHY POLES POKE FROM WALLS?
POLES?! THOSE ARE--

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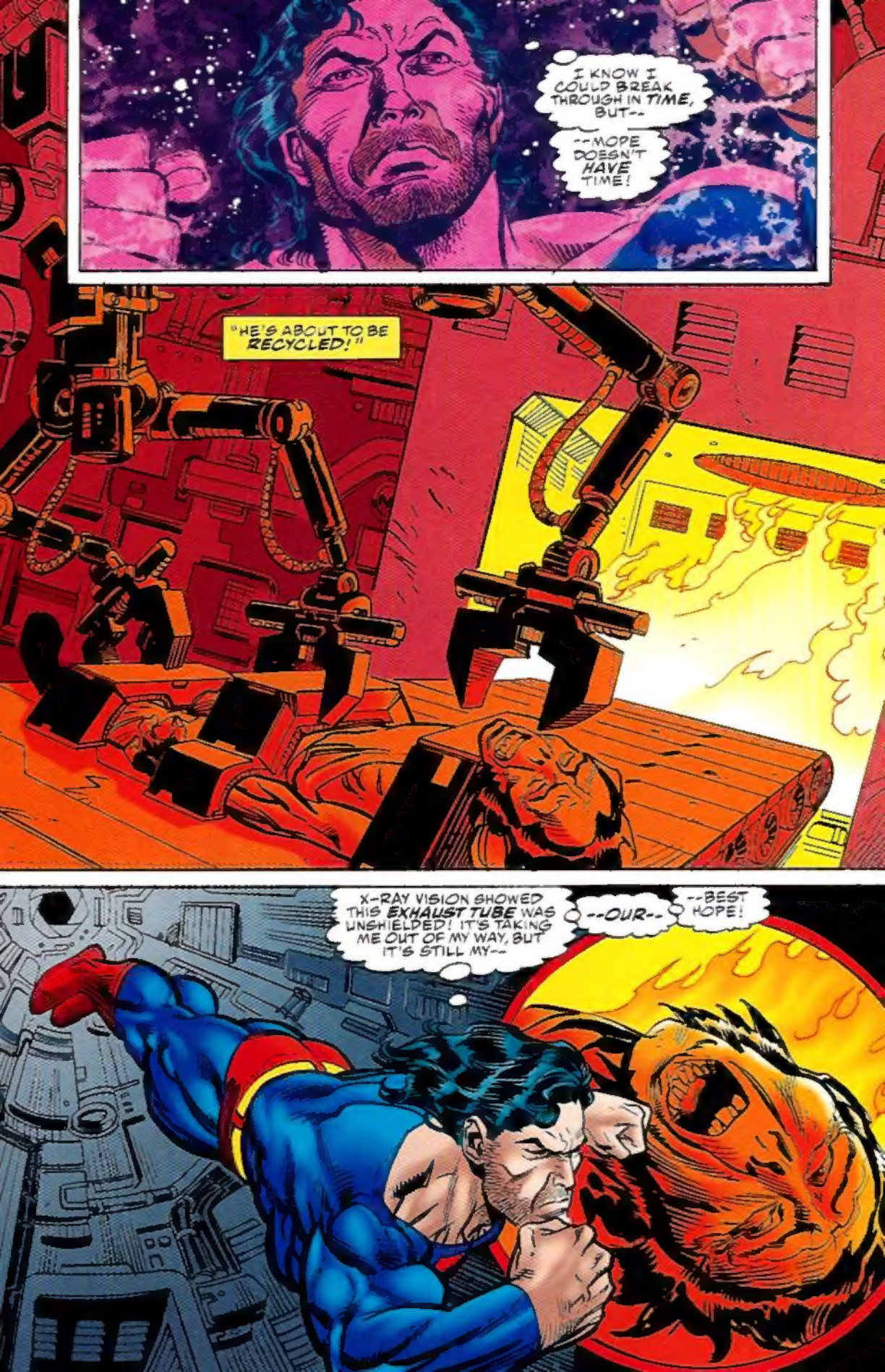
CREATED BY
JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
--GUN BARRELS!

WHILE ON EARTH...
DAILY PLAN
CLARK STILL OUT?
UH, YEAH, VERN. HE'S TAKING A LITTLE PERSONAL TIME.
NICE LIE, LOIS...!
OVER A WEEK AGO, AS SUPERMAN, CLARK WAS KIDNAPPED BY ALIEN "POLICEMEN" --AND I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY!
IF I DIDN'T HAVE MY WORK TO DISTRACT ME, I'D GO NUTS!
'BOUT FINISHED WITH THAT PORTENZA PIECE, LOIS? EDDIE CALLED IN SICK, AND I NEED SOMEONE TO FILL IN.
SURE, PERRY, HAPPY TO HELP. WHAT'S THE TOPIC?
IT'S A SPECULATION UPDATE FOR THE SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT:
"ALIEN ABDUCTIONS --WHAT NEXT?"
:sigh:

SO FAR--
--NOTHING!
I'VE SCANNED WITH X-RAY VISION, AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF TELEPORTATION EQUIPMENT. THAT WIZARD SENT US DOWN A ONE-WAY STREET!
LOOKS LIKE THIS PLACE WAS SET UP AS A MANUFACTURING FACILITY, BUT WE'D BETTER BE CAREFUL.
KNOWING THE H'TROS, EVEN A "FACTORY" COULD BE FULL OF--
--SURPRISES?
SH-LIK!
SH-LIK!

FLOOR MOVING?! WE'RE CAUGHT!
BUT NOT FOR--
--LONG!
BZZZT!
EASY, MOPE! I'LL HAVE YOU FREE IN--
PHOOOSH!
?!
AIRLOCK WAS PART OF THE TRAP! VACUUM SUCKED ME OUT INTO SPACE! AND WHAT'S WORSE--
--THE LOCK'S PROTECTED ON THE OUTSIDE BY A FORCE FIELD!


I KNOW I COULD BREAK THROUGH IN TIME, BUT--
--HOPE DOESN'T HAVE TIME!
"HE'S ABOUT TO BE RECYCLED!"
X-RAY VISION SHOWED THIS EXHAUST TUBE WAS UNSHIELDED! IT'S TAKING ME OUT OF MY WAY, BUT IT'S STILL MY--
--OUR--
--BEST HOPE!

I'M IN! NOW TO--
--hmm? METAL PODS SLIDING OPEN? AND INSIDE--
SKRINK!
SKRINK!
--H'TROS WARRIORS! THAT'S WHAT'S BEING BUILT HERE!
FOUGHT AN ARMY OF THESE MACHINES THE FIRST TIME I WENT INTO DEEP SPACE! *
I BEAT THEM THEN--
*ONCE AGAIN, IN ACTION COMICS ANNUAL #7.

...NO! M-MOPE WON'T SCREAM! MOPE--
--WON'T DIE, EITHER!
SORRY TO CUT THIS SO CLOSE.
GOT A LITTLE WRAPPED UP IN SOME-THING.
THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!
DON'T MENTION IT. SOON AS I GET THIS METAL OUT OF MY HAIR AND &PTUI!& MOUTH, WE'LL--
--MOPE? REALLY, THERE'S NO NEED TO GET ON YOUR KNEES--!
N-NOT&gasp!& GRATITUDE! M-MOPE&KOFF!& CAN'T BREATHE!
THE AIR... GETTING THINNER! SOMETHING'S DRAIN-ING THE STATION'S ATMOSPHERE!

WHILE ON A DISTANT PLANET RULED BY THE OMNISCIENT JUDICIAL COUNCIL KNOWN AS THE TRIBUNAL..
WHERE IS HE?
WHERE IS HE?
STOP YELLING AND LAP YOUR GRUEL! ALPHA CENTURION HAS MERELY BEEN REMOVED FOR ROUTINE INTERROGATION.
OH REALLY? FIVE OF US GET CAPTURED TRYING TO RESCUE SUPERMAN--
--AND HE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO'S SUDDENLY FREE?
WH... WHAT?!
D'DN'T YOU KNOW?
CYBORG'S WORKING FOR THE TRIBUNAL NOW.
ENJOY YOUR MEAL.
I WAS RIGHT ALL ALONG!
ALPHA CENTURION WAS THE CYBORG IN DISGUISE!
AH OH MEANS SUPERMAN'S IN SERIOUS GUANO!
DOES IT MATTER? WITH THE CYBORG ON SUPERMAN'S TRAIL, THE ESCAPEE IS AS GOOD AS CAUGHT, ANYWAY.

THIS ... IS THE ATMOSPHERE... WHEEZ... CENTER?
NO NEED, SUPERMAN. I'VE ALREADY REVERSED THE VACUUM FLOW.
UH-HUH THOSE TANKS ARE FILLED WITH OXYGEN.
NOW IF I CAN JUST FIGURE OUT THE CONTROLS--
WHA--?
HO
OHHHH--
--YES!
CYBORG!
HERE?
HOW--?

WHEN I ARRIVED, I MERGED WITH THE STATION'S COMPUTERS, THEN MANIPULATED DEFENSE AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMS TO LURE YOU TO ME.
I'VE RESTORED ATMOSPHERE--
MY SCOUT SHIP PICKED UP A DISTRESS SIGNAL FROM THIS INSTALLATION
ITS SCANNERS IDENTIFIED ONE OF THE INVADERS AS KRYPTONIAN. THAT WAS ALL I NEEDED
--SO YOUR PATHETIC LITTLE FRIEND CAN WATCH AS I BREAK YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL!
SHAK

MODE NOT PATHETIC MODE STRONG!
G-G-GO AWAY!
I KNOW THAT TRICK--HOW YOUR RACE CAN BULK UP TO INTIMIDATE AN ENEMY.
PHWAK!
PERHAPS WHEN I'M THROUGH WITH SUPERMAN--
--I'LL SHOW YOU WHAT INTIMIDATION REALLY IS!
CYBORG
..YOU TALK TOO MUCH!
THROP!

HNG!
SPLIT MY CONCENTRATION ...LEFT MYSELF OPEN!
K-RASH!!
IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN..!
KR-CHK!
YOU CAN'T WIN, SUPERMAN! I'M HALF MACHINE! I CAN TAKE MORE PUNISHMENT THAN YOU!
K-CHOW!
AND I CAN MAKE MY WHOLE BODY A WEAPON!
YEAH? LET'S SEE HOW TOUGH YOU ARE--
K-CHOW!
--WITHOUT THAT "HAND-GUN"!

STOP IT! L-LEAVE US ALONE! PLEASE--!
WHINE, WHINE WHINE! I SHOULD HAVE LET THE ATMOSPHERE RUN OUT COMPLETELY!
CHOOM!
YOU WEREN'T LISTENING!
ATMOSPHERE'? YES! THAT COULD WORK!
MAKING A SHIELD?
HOW FUTILE!
IT'S NOT FOR ME CYBORG-- IT'S FOR MOPE!
I'LL PROTECT HIM WHEN I DO--
--THIS!
HEAT VISION! MELTING THROUGH THOSE TANKS OF--
--PURE OXYGEN?
18

FRANTIC MOMENTS AFTERWARD...
EASY, MODE. I'VE SET THE CYBORG'S SHIP ON AUTOPILOT...
...AND I'LL HAVE YOU OUT OF THIS COCOON IN--
IT'S NOT OVER YET, KRYPTONIAN!
YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE CERTAIN I WAS FINISHED...
...A MISTAKE THAT WILL COST YOU DEARLY!
IT'S ALLOWED ME TO MERGE COMPLETELY WITH THE STATION'S DEFENSE PROGRAMMING! NOW--
HRRMMM
"--I'LL FOCUS EVERY ERG OF HITROS POWER TO BLOW YOU FROM THE HEAVENS!"
HRRMMMM
K-KAL...?

DIAGNOSTIC OF MERGE PROGRAM COMPLETE : INITIATING PARTY SHOWS CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE OF ORGANIC FUNCTION.
OVERRIDE INSTIGATED: PRIME DIRECTIVE IN EFFECT.
DESTROY ALL ORGANIC LIFE!
eh? THE CONTROLS-- THEY'VE STOPPED RESPONDING! WHAT--?
THE ENERGY CYBORG WANTED TO USE ON US IS BEING CHANNELED INTO HIM!
HE'S MY GREATEST ENEMY, BUT, BLAST IT--
--I CAN'T JUST STAND AROUND AND WATCH HIM DIE!
CYBORG'S USING ALL OF HIS STRENGTH TO RESIST THE ENERGY SURGE!
BUT HE WON'T LAST LONG! THIS IS NO TIME FOR--

"...SUBTLETY!"
KRAKESH!
AAAAAGGHHH!
YOU... CAME BACK...?
T-TOOK THE ENERGY SURGE... YOURSELF?
YOU... Y-YOU SAVED... MY LIFE!
I NEVER REALIZED... YOU COULD BE SO...
SHLIK!
ZZZ-KLAK!
...STUPID!
UUUHHHHH...

AN UNDETERMINED LENGTH OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS LATER...
KAL...?
KAL ALL RIGHT?
M...MOPE? WHAT--?
WHIRRRRR!
THE PRISONERS, YOUR HONOR--AS PROMISED!
KAL-EL OF KRYPTON--YOU HAVE PROVEN TO BE BOTH RESOURCEFUL AND DANGEROUS. THEREFORE, THE TRIBUNAL HAS CHOSEN TO ACCELERATE THE PUNITIVE PROCESS.
HAVING BEEN FOUND GUILTY BY BLOODLINE OF THE ANNIHILATION OF THE ENTIRE KRYPTONIAN RACE, YOUR DEATH SENTENCE IS TO BE CARRIED OUT--
--IMMEDIATELY!
TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK IN MAN OF STEEL #52!